

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-21 and 24-29 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-20 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 22 and 23 have been canceled. Claims 26-29 have been added.

Claims 21-25 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Oguchi (USP 5,646,392).

Claim 23 is objected to because of informalities. Claim 23 has been canceled and, thus, this objection is rendered moot.

For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 21-25 and requests favorable disposition of the application.

Argument

One of the objects of the present invention is to prevent mischievous tampering of the card reader. In particular, as disclosed, for example at page 56, lines 15 to 25, page 67, lines 11-16 and page 67, line 25 through page 68, line 7, it is desirable to have the shutter plate block the card entrance such that it becomes virtually impossible to open the card path unless a permissible card has been placed into the card entrance. Claim 21, which has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 22 and 23, includes, *inter alia*, a blocking portion for blocking said slide member movement from said turning member. As described in the specification at the locations mentioned above, and as depicted, for example, in Fig. 28, reference number 507, the blocking portion of hole 506a operates to block the slide member from moving to open the card entrance by interfering with shaft 521. Accordingly, if a person were to attempt to force open the shutter

plate, the blocking portion would prevent the connecting member 504, and, thus, the slide lever 505, from moving, and the person's attempts would, thus, be thwarted.

Oguchi does not disclose the blocking portion as claimed. Specifically, nowhere in Oguchi is a blocking portion disclosed that blocks a slide member movement and which is provided between two connecting members and a slide member. For at least reason, Oguchi does not anticipate claim 21. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 21, and all claims dependent therefrom, specifically, claims 24 and 25, be withdrawn.

Patentability of New Claims

For additional claim coverage merited by the scope of the invention, Applicant has added new claims 27-29. Applicant submits that the prior art does not disclose, teach, or otherwise suggest the combination of features contained therein. For example, none of the prior art references teach or otherwise suggest a shutter plate that completely blocks the card transport path, nor does the prior art disclose a deep groove for receiving an entire side of the shutter plate. Moreover, the prior art fails to disclose a shutter plate that is normally in the closed position, e.g., blocking the card entrance path, and which is open upon detection of a readable card. Support for the subject matter recited in new claims 27-29 is found at least at page 55, line 15 through page 56, line 17.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the application is believed to be in form for immediate allowance with claims 21 and 24-29, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to **contact the undersigned** at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/542,866

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

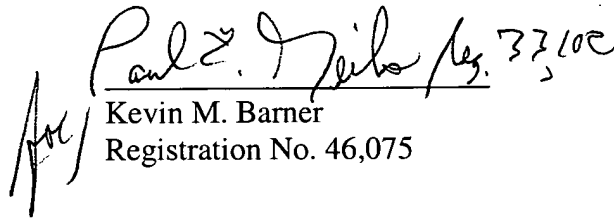
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